

Preliminary Amendment under Rule 1.53(b), dated 30 September 2003

REMARKS/AGRUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-15 are canceled, without prejudice by this response.

Claims 1-15 are canceled so that the remaining claims 16-21 are limited to a group of claims which in the prior application the Examiner has posited to be a different invention.

The filing of the divisional application of which this amendment is part include photocopies of a Petition under 37 CFR § 1.102(c) in the prior application for accelerated advancing of prosecution, and of the decision paper by the Director of Technology Center 17 according such status. This decision included the claims 5-9 remaining herein, and it is submitted that this application should also be accorded special status.

Early consideration, including a favorable determination to accord the present application special status with prosecution advanced out of turn for examination, is respectfully requested.

Preliminary Amendment under Rule 1.53(b), dated 30 September 2003

The Examiner is invited to telephone Michael F. Oglo,
Attorney for Applicant, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the
Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the
prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAYNE C. TUCKER ET AL

30 September 2003

By Michael F Oglo
MICHAEL F. OGLO
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 20464